

Kiuryaq Descriptive Introduction for Blind and Low-Vision Audience Members



[Image description: Two figures are silhouetted on a ridge against the bright background of the northern lights, which fills the sky with glowing greens and pinks.]

Descriptive Introduction

Kiuryaq is about two siblings born in the north with one being separated by adoption down south. The older sister is raised under the aurora with her grandparents and the younger brother is raised with no knowledge of his place of birth. Under their ancestral connection to the northern lights, choices are made that change their realities.

In form, Kiuryaq is a blend of theatre, with three performers embodying multiple roles; concert, with original music played by a live string quartet; and film, with expansive, immersive projections.

It has a minimal set, instead using immersive projections to build the world. There's a little hut on the left side of the stage with walls made of blank fabric so that it can transform via the projections and the imagination of the audience. Sometimes the hut is a home in the arctic, sometimes a Tim Hortons, sometimes a dark forest, sometimes The Explorer Hotel. Similarly, the backdrop changes too, sometimes the northern sky, illuminated by the dancing lights sweeping across its vastness, other times, it's a softly focused cityscape. There's also a black, rectangular box that transforms with context: sometimes a bench, and other times a ski-doo!

Another important feature of the stage is the string quartet located in the back right corner of the stage. They are behind a mesh screen, and under low light, so they are never very visible, but their presence is noticeable. Their position on the stage ensures that they can complement the action perfectly. The music they play often dances with a lightness that feels like a sonic description of the aurora.

Throughout the play, the characters often narrate their own actions, doing things like describing stepping over puddles that aren't really there. This show wasn't written with blind and low-vision access in mind, but their style of storytelling can sometimes feel like it is.

When the show begins, electric greens and blues of the northern lights dance over the stage. Marie is on stage alone, whistling. She lounges on a low rock, which is made of a tarp draped over an unseen frame.

Contact PuSh

Please do not hesitate to contact Andrea, the Accessible PuSh Coordinator if you have any further questions about this show, or if you'd like assistance reserving accessible seating. Email her at access@pushfestival.ca or call 604-605-8284 x204.